

**To:** Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Wardell, Christopher[Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov]; R8 GKM Leadership Team[R8\_GKM\_LeadershipTeam@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; StClair, Christie[StClair.Christie@epa.gov]  
**From:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Sent:** Thur 5/26/2016 6:42:49 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Continued Spring Runoff in the Animas Watershed

David:

Congressionals notified. Hit SEND whenever you're ready and I'll send press release.

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

USEPA Region 8

1595 Wynkoop St.

Denver, CO 80208

Mailcode: 8-OC

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Wardell, Christopher" <Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov>  
**Date:** May 26, 2016 at 12:40:31 PM MDT  
**To:** "Jenkins, Laura Flynn" <Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Continued Spring Runoff in the Animas Watershed

Congressionals notified

Chris Wardell

USEPA Region 8

Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison (120 day detail through July 2016)

Work: 303-312-6062

Cell: 303-552-7109

[wardell.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:wardell.christopher@epa.gov)

**From:** Wardell, Christopher

**Sent:** Thursday, May 26, 2016 12:40 PM

**Subject:** Continued Spring Runoff in the Animas Watershed

### **Continued Spring Runoff Notification – 26 May16**

Over the past several days, Cement Creek, north of Silverton, continued to periodically flow with an orange tinge caused by spring runoff and precipitation events. These periodic events are likely to continue for the next several weeks as spring runoff and precipitation continue.

As detailed in the Gold King Mine Stakeholders Alert and Notification Plan (Notification Plan), EPA will notify stakeholders throughout the entire watershed in EPA Regions 8, 6, and 9 of any mine-related activities that could potentially impact the watershed. The Plan includes four levels, including, Notification Only and Alert Levels I – III.

“Notification Only” events are issued when an identified non mine-site related event affects Cement Creek or the Animas river and that event will not pose a physical or safety concern for downstream users, e.g., discoloration of Cement Creek unrelated to mine operations, a storm event that may cause an identifiable disturbance of sediment, or any other event that could cause limited discoloration of the Animas River.

“Alerts” are broken out based on an event’s physical or safety concerns. Examples of Alert I events include a limited or temporary release of treated or untreated mine wastewater that may be identifiable through operator knowledge or observation, or through direct measurements of turbidity or pH, that occur anywhere above the USGS Gauging Stations before Silverton. Alert II situations, for example, might include a failure of treatment systems or a storm event causing a shutdown of operations. Alert III event include all events that are, or will likely cause, large-scale environmental or physical safety effects.

To reiterate, this email represents a “Notification Only” event related to the continued orange discoloration of Cement Creek caused by spring runoff and precipitation events.

This serves as notification that Cement Creek will periodically flow with an orange tinge over the next several weeks as spring runoff and precipitation continues.

Below are links to real-time water quality data in the Animas Watershed, including pH and turbidity.

Cement Creek:

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/inventory/?site\\_no=09358550&agency\\_cd=USGS](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/inventory/?site_no=09358550&agency_cd=USGS)

Animas River Below Silverton:

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/inventory/?site\\_no=09359020&agency\\_cd=USGS](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/inventory/?site_no=09359020&agency_cd=USGS)

Animas River at Durango:

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/inventory/?site\\_no=09361500&agency\\_cd=USGS](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/inventory/?site_no=09361500&agency_cd=USGS)

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